



# **Massachusetts National Guard**

**Public Affairs**

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## **Media Advisory**

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### ***Guard Unit to be Evaluated at FEMA Training Facility***

BEVERLY, Mass. -- A Massachusetts National Guard unit will undergo an external evaluation and capability exercise Saturday, Sept. 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Federal Emergency Management Agency training facility, 43 Airport Rd., Beverly, Mass., to validate the unit's readiness.

The Massachusetts Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, High-Yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package is one of 12 such teams located throughout the United States. The unit is trained to respond to disasters and assist the civilian emergency responders.

The CERF-P, pronounced "surf pea," is comprised of three separate elements that can deploy together or in modules: a Medical Team, comprised of Air National Guard medical personnel, which is capable of performing triage, stabilization, short patient holding and immediate medical support; an Extraction Team, the 101st Engineer Battalion, which is trained in confined space rescue, collapsed structure rescue, rappelling and rigging, and forced entry; and a Decontamination Team, the 272nd Chemical Company, which is trained on and equipped with decontamination equipment.

Training will begin at a collapsed structure site and the CERF-P teams will extract and care for victims, simulated by volunteers from the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia and training dummies. The goal of the external evaluation is to validate that the team will be able to respond anywhere in the New England area in the event of an emergency.

"The CERF-P is another example of the trained people and specialized equipment the Massachusetts National Guard can provide to assist first responders during an emergency," said Brig. Gen. Oliver J. Mason Jr., The Adjutant General of the Massachusetts National Guard.

### **MEDIA ARE INVITED TO THIS EVENT AND MUST REGISTER WITH THE CONTACT ABOVE**

**WHAT:** Massachusetts CERF-P External Evaluation

**WHEN:** Saturday, Sept. 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**WHERE:** FEMA training facility, 43 Airport Rd., Beverly, Mass.

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